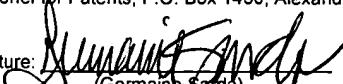


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 915687378 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: November 7, 2006 Signature:   
(Germaine Sarda)

Docket No.: 300622005500  
(PATENT)



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Chaitan KHOSLA et al.

Application No.: 09/867,845

Filed: May 29, 2001

For: DESIGN OF POLYKETIDE SYNTHASE  
GENES

Confirmation No.: 7453

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: S. Zhou

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-referenced application. A final Office Action was mailed dated May 12, 2006, for which a response was due on August 12, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three (3) months extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to November 12, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Applicants greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness and consideration Examiners' Zhou and Brusca extended to their representatives in a phone interview on August 8th. The helpful discussion is appreciated as well. The following amendments and discussion are believed responsive, both to the outstanding Office action and to the issues raised at the interview. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.